

NEWS RELEASE

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Grand Jury Charges Canadian Man with Conspiracy to Distribute Ecstasy

Rock Island, IL- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury today returned an indictment charging Stephen Alexander James Bradley, age 57, of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, with conspiracy to distribute ecstasy (MDMA) and possession of ecstasy with intent to distribute.

Bradley was arrested and charged by criminal complaint on June 19, 2006, following a traffic stop by Illinois State Police in Henry county, Illinois. The affidavit filed in support of the complaint alleges that Bradley was stopped for a traffic violation as he was traveling westbound on Interstate 80. After obtaining Bradley's consent to search the vehicle, the affidavit alleges the trooper located what was later determined to be approximately 50,000 pills of MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy, which weighed approximately 30 pounds.

U.S. Attorney Heaton stated, "Ecstasy is a powerful stimulant that can produce serious psychological and physical damage. It has become a serious problem not only in nightclubs, but also in high schools and college dorms throughout this country. The disruption of this large shipment of ecstasy will hopefully spare hundreds of potential users the damage this drug can wreak."

On June 20, 2006, Bradley appeared in federal court in Rock Island, Illinois before U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas J. Shields who ordered Bradley be detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshal pending trial.

If convicted, the offenses, conspiracy to distribute ecstasy and possession with intent to distribute ecstasy each carry a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine up to \$1,000,000.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Illinois State Police, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Henry County State's Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John K. Mehochko.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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